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THE COMMON CAUSE

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union*** **602.** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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Registered as a Newspaper.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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Notes and News.

Women's Suffrage in America.

Just too late for last week's issue came the news that the United States House of Representatives had voted against Women's Suffrage by 204 votes to 174. This is the first time in history that such a vote has been taken, for, as all Suffragists here know, the policy of our friends in America has been to fight the Suffrage battle in each State separately, and not, as in this case, to raise the question in the Federal Legislature. Each State has the right to enfranchise its own women, and when it exercises that right, the women are at once eligible to vote not only for their own State Legislature, but for the Federal Legislature also; they are, in fact, on exactly equal terms with American men. But if Women's Suffrage were carried in the Federal Legislature, the battle would be submitted for decision in every State at once. Unfortunately, however, this quicker procedure raises a constitutional question and complicates the issue. Those who are sticklers for "State rights" vote against Women's Suffrage, not because they are opposed to it, but because they object to such a measure being forced by Congress over the heads of the States. Thus Suffragists have to meet two kinds of opposition—Anti-suffragists, and "States-right" people. Probably this accounts for their defeat on January 13th, though the smallness of the hostile majority gives ground for hope next time.

Occupation for the Belgians.

It is good to know that our Belgian guests are not to be kept compulsorily idle, and the proposal that they should be set to work on the production of articles which they will themselves require when they return to Belgium, is a valuable one. It seems that very few of the refugees are agriculturalists, so that that opening for labour—where labour is really needed—can hardly be taken. But we hear of a scheme, initiated by a Belgian lady, for taking advantage of the presence among us of experts on intensive cultivation to give not only employment to them but a knowledge of their methods to English agriculturalists. If this can be done, we shall owe a debt to our guests comparable to that we owed to the Huguenot silk weavers of long ago—but even greater.

The Rise in Prices.

The cost of living is rising steadily, and the rise is in the price of food-stuffs. Experts estimate the increase at from 18 to 25 per cent. If it is only 18 per cent., it means that it takes 24s. to buy what could be bought for 20s. before the war. It is easy to see what this means to those millions who live "round about a pound a week." If the rise is inevitable, we must bear it, and we must *all* bear it: that is to say (to begin with), the richer must take their share by insisting on a more generous scale of allowance to the dependants of our soldiers and sailors. If it is not inevitable, but due to too much haste to grow rich on the part of ship-owners, it is time for Government action. But on any Advisory Committee it is absolutely essential that housewives should be represented largely.

Patriotism and Economics.

It is announced in *The Nursing Times* that the pay of nurses at the front, originally fixed at two guineas a week, has been reduced to one guinea, because, at the front, a long term of service may be looked for, and because *patriotic women should be willing to volunteer for service at a minimum salary.* Of all the mean economies connected with war-making we think this is easily the meanest. If nurses do not need two guineas a week, their patriotism will easily find a use for it in connection with the various cries for help which reach us all from all directions: but that half the money they have earned—presumably it will not be suggested that they have not earned it—should be simply taken from them really is, in vulgar terms, "the limit." It is true that if they remain alive and well, "a long term of service" may be looked for. Death and disablement may also be looked for, for shells, typhoid, and tetanus are no respecters of persons. All this is thrown in at a guinea a week.

What the Womanly Woman Needs.

No Suffragist should lose the joy of reading Mrs. Swanwick's criticism of Army Council methods with regard to soldiers' dependants in *The Daily News* of January 19th. It is not to be condensed, and it cannot easily be quoted, for every word tells, and the whole is only not long enough. Here is the conclusion of the whole matter: "What the womanly woman needs for her full and beneficent development in this twentieth century of card-indexes and percentages is (1) training, (2) wages, (3) power, (4) responsibility."

The Queen's Work For Women Fund.

As we go to press, we receive the report of work done by the Queen's Work for Women Fund. It is evident that great pains are being taken to train labour for work that is really wanted, while at the same time we note that the skill of those who are already skilled is wasted as little as possible, and the ordinary avenues of industry used where they can possibly be

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kept open. We shall publish a fuller report next week. In the meantime, in spite of very real difficulties in the way, we cannot help regretting the apparently fixed determination of those in authority to regard 10s. a week as a proper wage for women. It may be a training wage, or a part-time wage; but it cannot be regarded as a decent standard for whole time.

Fighting in the Dark.

We commend to all our readers an article signed with the well-known initials "L.T.H." which appeared in *The Manchester Guardian* of January 17th. The writer puts forward a strong plea for a statement of "the objects of the war as the Allies conceive them," that is to say, on what terms should we be prepared to make peace? If the Germans are fighting for world-dominion, the knowledge of these terms would do them and us no good, but could (we may add) do no harm. If, on the other hand, the German "man in the street" really believes that he is fighting for his national existence, and that the Allies are determined, with or without his consent, to crush his country and tear it to pieces, the knowledge that this is not really the case would affect his attitude to the war—and with it, eventually, even his Government's—considerably. There are always objections to tying oneself down to a fixed programme in circumstances which change perpetually; but we are inclined to believe that in this instance the advantages considerably outweigh the drawbacks; "lest men continue to fight in the dark, dying in their thousands for a cause they do not understand."

The Duchess of Marlborough.

We publish this week a portrait of the Duchess of Marlborough, who is Chairman of the Women's Municipal Party. This Association—in spite of its title—is "non-party," and its object is to get a fair number of women elected on to the London City Council, the Borough Councils, and Boards of Guardians. This work has been, like other work, rather disorganised by the war, but the Party rightly feels that its importance is too great to justify its abandonment, even for the present. The work of local governing bodies is made more and not less urgent by war-conditions, and the presence of women on all local governing bodies is essential. So the Women's Municipal Party is going on getting committees together, and adopting candidates for the Borough Councils elections of November, 1915. Suffragists will be interested to know that Lady Frances Balfour is on the Executive Committee, and the Secretary is Mrs. Abbott, better known to most of us as Miss Lamond. We hope shortly to publish an article by the Duchess of Marlborough on the need for the Party's work and its importance to women, as protectors of the race.

Many Inventions.

According to *The World*, some 350 patents for inventions were applied for by women in the United Kingdom in 1914. Of these "dress" and "household requisites" account for 54 and 20 respectively. "Mechanical" and "Motor-cars and cycling" run to 24 and 7. "Aeroplane—one" is an interesting item. One which sounds almost too good to be true is a deck which can be released and will float when the ship founders; and one which sounds like a nightmare is a hobble-skirt in which you do not hobble. It is doubtless well not to hobble, but it is a pity to take out a patent for it.

A Sign of the Times.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the appearance of a new Suffrage journal, *The Catholic Suffragist*, organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society (55, Berners Street). It is a spirited action to start a new propaganda paper in these days, and we incline to the belief that no movement but ours would have had the courage to do it. All success to our contemporary!

The Case of the Childless Widow.

Some members of the N.U.W.S.S. Executive Committee have thought out proposals for dealing with the case of the childless widow of a soldier and sailor. The scheme is described in our columns this week by Mrs. Rackham. Councillor Eleanor Rathbone deals with another important side of the problem of our soldiers' and sailors' dependants. We call the attention of our readers also to *Jus Suffragii* and *The Shield*, both of which have published this month articles of great interest and importance. We do not remember having seen more valuable numbers of both these organs. "W. J. P. W." on "Militarism, Prostitution, and Disease" (*The Shield*), and M. S. Florence and C. K. Ogden on M. Romain Rolland and "Woman's Prerogative" (*Jus Suffragii*), are specially interesting.

The Case of the Childless Widow.

The Executive Committee of the National Union has recently laid before the Select Committee on Pensions a scheme for dealing with young and childless widows of soldiers and sailors. The scheme is based upon a principle which will undoubtedly appeal to all Suffragists—the principle that a young and able-bodied woman with no children should not be pensioned off as if her work in the world was done because she no longer has a husband to look after. Such a position is not in the real interests of the woman herself, and it is wasteful from the point of view of the community which ought not to be deprived of her services. The point of view should surely be that in the young childless widows of our soldiers and sailors the community possesses a source of strength and usefulness, if only their powers can be trained in the right direction.

The scheme of the National Union applies only to women who are left widows below the age of forty or forty-five. The assumption is to be that these young women will naturally return to wage-earning in some form, but they will be given an opportunity of receiving a thorough training in some occupation in which trained women are needed. Occupations which readily suggest themselves are those of Health Visitors, nurses (both hospital, district, and children's), women relieving officers, teachers of domestic science, midwives, cooks, and helps in Maternity Centres; there are also possible new openings in business and industry, in the civil service, in libraries and banks. The cost of training will be paid by the Government, together with full maintenance, say, 17s. or £1 a week, during the period of training. If the widow does not wish to be trained, but prefers to return to the work she was doing before marriage or to enter the usual occupation of her district, she will be free to do so, and in this case she will receive full maintenance for a year so as to give her time to find work and adapt herself to her changed mode of life. Full maintenance will also be given to any woman who is widowed after the age of forty or forty-five, to all who are incapacitated by bodily or mental infirmity from wage-earning, and to all on reaching the age of sixty.

It is proposed that the minimum pension of 5s. or 7s. 6d. a week already promised to childless widows should be continued to them after the full maintenance of the first year or the period of training has come to an end. This is not to be regarded as maintenance, for which it is obviously inadequate, but as a sum which the widow will have in reserve—over and above her earnings—and on which she can draw during unemployment or short time. It is fitting that she should receive as "compensation" for the death of her husband this safeguard against the uncertainties of industrial life. It may be argued that this small pension will be used by her to subsidise her wages, and will enable her to take less than other women. This is a danger which has to be faced if any pension is given to potential wage-earners, as if £1 a week is given there is no certainty that the recipient will not go out to work. Loneliness and a desire to be "doing something" will drive her to do so if need does not.

It is hoped that by this scheme no hardship will accrue to anyone; there will be work for those who can work, and maintenance for those who cannot. It would be possible too for the Government to develop along with it a new Public Health Service, for which these young widows could be specially trained. There is great need for more qualified women officials to work under Health, Pension, Education, and Insurance Committees.

A scheme such as the above stands or falls not by the care with which it is worked out on paper beforehand, but by its administration. It is absolutely essential that it should be worked by a competent committee, consisting largely of women (including representatives of women's labour organisations), but on which men representing public service, business, and commerce should also be included. The Committee would be responsible for finding suitable openings, for selecting the right women to fill such openings, and for seeing that they obtained the best possible training for their work.

It is desired that the same principle as is applied above to the widows of privates should be applied also to the widows of officers, *i.e.*, that if below a certain age and without children, they should be offered training in profession or business in addition to the small annual pension which they now receive. The professions of medicine and dentistry, some branches of the teaching profession, pharmacy, and the Civil Service suggest themselves as being those which offer good openings for well-trained women.

C. D. RACKHAM, P.L.G.

PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES.

The need for women members and women officials upon any committee dealing with Military and Naval pensions and allowances was ably dealt with under the title of "A Woman's Question" in last week's COMMON CAUSE from a general point of view. Perhaps a few observations from the point of view of a worker for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association may help those who have not thought of the matter before to realise its urgency.

We are anxiously awaiting the Report of the Select Committee on Pensions. Many of us anticipate that the Report will recommend the adoption of the plan set forth in the White Paper Cd. 7662. This proposes to entrust the duty of assessing allowances additional to the minimum scale in the case of widows and dependants to the Old Age Pensions Committee. It proposes that to the Education Committee shall be left the task of reporting cases where children who are pensioners are in a state of neglect. For the assessment of the claims of disabled soldiers and sailors it suggests no authority but the Chelsea Hospital and the Admiralty respectively.

To many of us who have been dealing with these problems since the beginning of the war, this seems a disastrous solution.

First; it seems a curiously artificial arrangement which delegates to three separate authorities the task of dealing with the component parts of one and the same family, the man, the woman, and the child. Owing to the scale of the present war, the number of pensioners is likely to be so terribly large that the task of dealing with them seems surely a great enough one to justify the existence of a Committee created for that express purpose and composed of persons with special qualifications for the task. Can it be said that the Old Age Pensions Committee satisfies this description? It is appointed in towns by the City or Town council and in many places it consists of the whole Town Council, which does its work through District Committees on which a certain number of co-opted members sit. The Committees have no officers of their own but carry out investigations through the Customs and Excise Officers, who are of course all men.

Can it be said that these men, excellent as no doubt they are for the purpose for which they were appointed, are likely to be suitable to investigate the circumstances upon which the exact amount of a widow's or widowed mother's claim upon the State depends; to determine whether an unmarried wife has really made a permanent home with the soldier; or to decide on the paternity of an illegitimate child?

Madame Lallie Charles] *[67, Curzon Street.*

HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH,
Chairman of the Women's Municipal Party.

We have had for the past two months practical experience of how this work is being done by the Customs and Excise Officers in assessing the Separation Allowances to mothers and "dependants other than wives," and the result makes us look with dismay upon the prospect of seeing the same system continued when the life-long income of a soldier's widow or widowed mother is to depend upon the result. No blame in most cases attaches to the Officers; they are no doubt doing their best under great pressure to grapple with the heavy task that has been thrust upon them. But the enquiries that have to be made are in most cases purely domestic in their character, and concern questions which are clearly within the competence of an experienced housewife, more than of a man whose main function is concerned with questions of taxation.

The kind of interview that goes on is described to us daily by dozens of women who sit patiently in rows in the Enquiry Office, waiting till one of the workers in charge has time to hear their grievances and to help them out of their difficulties. The Pensions Officer with a printed form of instructions before him puts the woman through a series of questions as to the amount of wages which her son earned, the amount which he handed over to her to keep, and the cost of his maintenance. Perhaps the woman says that the weekly wage was 21s. and that the amount contributed was 14s. "Well, but he was a fine hearty lad, now it would have cost you most of the 14s. to keep him. You would not like to starve him would you?" The cost of his washing, if it was put out, is discussed; the amount of gas that he burned at night over his books. She is asked whether she bought his clothes and what they cost her. The woman as a rule has not the slightest idea as to the drift of all these questions. Her instinct is to make out that she has done well for her son and given him the best of everything. She does not want the neighbours to say that she was mean and half-starved the lad, nor to appear "covetuous."

If she is uncertain in her replies, she is asked what she would charge a lodger if she took one in to board. Finally, the Officer jots down a figure and shows it to her, saying, "Well, now, you would be well off with 5s., wouldn't you; would you be satisfied with that?" In the great majority of cases she is afraid to say No; or perhaps she thinks that besides the 5s. she will get the 3s. 6d. which she knows the son has allotted her and which has been stopped out of his pay since the beginning of the war. After the man has gone she recollects all sorts of circumstances which she forgot to mention, such as that the son bought his own dinner out of the money he kept; or that he clothed his three younger brothers and sisters; or even that he was away at sea three weeks out of the four and cost her nothing at all. When her Ring Paper comes she finds that she is to receive 7s. 4d. per week, which (though this she does not know, and is not told) is made up as follows:—Son's necessary allotment, 1s. 2d.; Government allowance, 3s. 10d.; surplus allotment, 2s. 4d. She has been told in letters from her son that if he allots 3s. 6d. she will get 9s. from the Government, so she has been expecting 12s. 6d., and of course is bitterly disappointed.

"My son asked his Commanding Officer before they went into the trenches what I'd get and the Officer told him that the mothers were to be treated just the same as the wives and that I'd be sure to get 12s. 6d." No doubt part of her disappointment is due to the extraordinarily misleading wording of the Government circular, but partly it must be attributed to the perfunctory and inexpert character of the enquiries which have been made. In the district with which the writer is acquainted, the amount set down for the cost of a working lad's board by the Pensions Officer usually varies from 7s. to 11s., 8s. being the amount commonly deducted. This is probably a fair assessment where the family income is fairly substantial, but where, as is the case in hundreds of homes, the boy's earnings have really been the sole source of support for his mother and younger brothers and sisters, it is often an obvious overestimate.

Many of the interviews that take place are far more perfunctory and less satisfactory than the one I have sketched. Of course clever women know how to make the best of their cases and will get the maximum allowance. A woman whom we have known since the beginning of the war and who has always told us that her son did nothing for her but give her an odd shilling occasionally, is now getting the full 12s. 6d. on the understanding, as she frankly told us, that she was to keep the 3s. 6d. allotment to hand back to him when he returns. Another

ingenuously handed us a letter from a son in which he says, "I am putting down that I gave you 16s. a week. Mind you say the same, as you will get more that way." Her application form to us shows that the actual amount given was 9s. It is a pity that William Wordsworth is not alive to read "A Lesson to the Government on the iniquity of teaching soldiers' and sailors' dependants to tell lies by giving them every possible inducement to do so with impunity." So far as one can judge, their standard of truthfulness is at present just about the same as that of the more educated sections of the community, that is to say, very few people indeed tell a direct lie in reply to a distinct question, especially if they have to sign their names to it, but nearly everyone exaggerates or underestimates, if he thinks he has anything to gain by doing so.

The main point, however, is that the best-intentioned officer cannot get at the facts after a five minutes' interview with a woman he has never seen before. A woman official would probably do the work far better, but even she would need a more thorough enquiry and the amount that she intends to recommend ought to be submitted to the woman in a clearly worded statement which she has time to think over. If she is dissatisfied her appeal ought to be to a Committee of which at least half are women. If the circulars issued by the War Office had been drawn up by women accustomed to investigation or to district visiting, there is some chance that they might have been intelligible to the recipients.

The Government plan for preventing the neglect of children ignores the fact that babies in arms do not attend school. If there is no child of school going age in a family of orphaned pensioners who are boarded out with relations, they could be starved and exploited without anyone becoming aware of it. Even in the case of a widow with children, surely if the state is acting *in loco parentis* it has a right to be satisfied that they are being properly looked after. It seems to me a pseudo feminism which assumes that all mothers are good mothers and denies or ignores the principle that to take money from the State for discharging a certain duty involves a responsibility to the State and justifies such supervision as is necessary to see that the duty is being properly carried out.

One of the most serious obstacles in the way of a satisfactory settlement of this problem appears to be the doctrinaire dislike felt by a considerable section of the House of Commons, and especially by the Labour Party, to any form of volunteer effort and their craze for piling every conceivable new function upon already over-worked town councils. It is hard to get a new idea into the heads of the British public, but when they do conceive such an idea they invariably work it to death. Every one whose opinion is worth considering knows the danger of an excessive multiplication of *ad hoc* bodies. No one wants the pensions and allowances to soldiers and their widows run upon Poor Law or Charity Organisation principles (or rather upon the principles which the public imagine to be characteristic of the Charity Organisation Society). But the test of a really capable administrator is the capacity to devise a mechanism which shall be really suited to the particular set of facts with which it is intended to deal and is not a mere cheap reproduction of a stock pattern. Of course, if the Government decide upon adopting a flat rate of pensions upon lines as simple as those embodied in the Old Age Pensions Act, a clumsy ready-made machinery will suffice for the task. But if, as seems almost inevitable, an attempt is made to adjust the Government grants to some extent to the varying circumstances of the different grades of men who have joined the Army and Navy, the task of assessing and administering pensions is bound to be an exceedingly difficult and delicate one, and if clumsily performed it will inevitably lead to a great injustice and dissatisfaction, to a huge waste of public money, and to what is almost worse, to the demoralisation which comes from any system which encourages rapacity and fraud and makes it easy for the claims of conscientious and non-self-assertive people to be overlooked. The Committees that are to grapple with the task ought to command the best brains and the most highly-skilled services that are available. They will be dealing largely with women and children, and their task will be one to which women are by nature and experience peculiarly well suited. But the women wanted are not those that are likely to be appointed merely because they are the protégées or relations of Town Councillors. The new field of social effort is essentially one where the trained and expert woman social worker ought to play her part and the National Union, which is composed so largely of such workers, ought to see to it that their services are not set aside.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

(City Councillor, Liverpool.)

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

MADAM,—I received a letter written from the trenches, a few days ago. The writer, describing the horrors of the present war and touching upon the prospects of peace, wrote the following sentence:—"This is where the women of the world should come in."

That is my only comment on the pronouncement by my revered Chief, Mrs. Fawcett, in your issue of last week. Is it probable that the finest soldiers—those who loathe this horrible carnage, but are willingly sacrificing their lives for the sake of their countries—are looking to the women, not only to keep up the vital strength of their respective nations but to give a definite lead in the great problem of how to bring about a lasting peace?

An International Congress at such a time as this will be indeed a serious undertaking and fraught with many difficulties, but, in my humble opinion, it is a right and courageous thing to do.

Surely, if the flame of Internationalism is at such a low ebb as Mrs. Fawcett believes it to be, it is due to the failure of women to rise above the miseries and bitterness of the time! The proposed Congress, lifting our thoughts into the region of a hopeful and glorious future of international brotherhood, must perforce do much to allay these bitter feelings caused by the warring of nations against nations.

KATHERINE M. HARLEY.

MADAM,—With dismay I read the letter from Mrs. Fawcett in last week's COMMON CAUSE opposing the summoning of a Congress of the International Suffrage Alliance in 1915.

Mrs. Fawcett urges faith and patience, but states that calling together an International Congress at this moment would "almost certainly lead to an outburst of animosity and strife."

Delegates to the International Congress would be representative women who have taught and believed in the solidarity of the women's movement; women who have a vision of a nobler womanhood, developed by freedom; women who, despite being scorned or betrayed by their own Governments, have always refused to give way to violence. Do we suffragists really lack the faith that such women can exercise self-control? Do we really believe they are likely to assail one another and injure their own cause by giving way to "bursts of uncontrollable nationalism as opposed to internationalism"? Mrs. Fawcett alludes to a Peace Congress where delegates attacked one another with umbrellas. Does this refer to the I.W.S.A.?

And if it were so—because of one disastrous experience, must we at this moment show ourselves lacking in faith and courage? I cannot do our English suffrage leaders the injustice to believe that they would act vulgarly or unworthily; I will not do the pioneer women of other countries the injustice of assuming their inferiority to our own countrywomen. For many of us non-combatants there exists no *woman* enemy; in many of our hearts there is only a deep pity for our helpless, innocent sisters in all belligerent countries during these awful days of suffering and bereavement. Must we women always echo men's animosities, men's politics, men's conventions? Mrs. Fawcett asks us to guard the sacred flame of Internationalism. Can this be achieved by expressions of disbelief in the capacity of women to act as Christians?

JULIE E. TOMLINSON.

[*No such occurrence as that described by Mrs. Fawcett ever took place at an International Women's Suffrage Alliance Congress.*—ED., C.C.]

AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

MADAM,—In spite of Mr. Strachey's arguments, I cannot feel convinced that *political* education is outside the sphere of National Union activities. For instance, the fact that many of the Societies set themselves systematically to study certain social problems last year would appear to show that the members aspired not merely to form a part, but an intelligent part, of the electorate. I would merely suggest that they turn their attention for the moment to foreign and international questions.

We are told on all sides that this is to be the last war, that we are fighting to crush militarism once and for all; surely the fact of our voteless ness will not and should not deter us from discussing the possibility of making these something more than empty phrases, although the realization of our inability to bring direct political pressure to bear cannot fail to deepen and intensify our conviction of the need for enfranchisement.

GRACE KEMEYS-TYUTE.

MADAM,—Your distinguished correspondents who cry to heaven against the silence of Suffragists in the face of the present problems, surely deserve more credit for the fullness of their hearts than for the clearness of their heads. The suspicion that Suffragists may be thought to have nothing to say obsesses them. Yet they need not tremble before this bogey. Suffragists are testifying all the time—we may hope that their influence is as a warm and vivifying sunshine in the stormy welter. But try to catch and bottle and label this sunshine and it is gone.

The time-worn tyrannies and dogmatisms threaten us once more—once more it seems we are to subscribe to formulas, to pronounce shibboleths, under penalty of not being truly womanly (or truly Suffragist, for the terms are used almost indifferently). Just a touch of humour illumines the situation. There is to be an International Congress to voice the women's opinion, and lest this women's opinion should be hard to come at, it is hinted that recalcitrants may not wish to risk their lives on a mine-strewn sea and may stay at home!

Such no doubt are the "partisans," the "ignorant," the "insular"—yet beg we to claim that we are trying to give ourselves to the solution of the problem—but that to us it is a human problem of almost infinite complexity and cannot be narrowed down to terms of sex. Let us exult in the deep spiritual unity among Suffragists, but let us be allowed to preserve our spiritual and intellectual freedom—freedom to hold the exquisitely beautiful faith in a "martyr nation"—or to believe in disarmament by general consent, or in armed peace, or even to love war for war's sake, as our mentors more than half suspect of us! Or let us be free to follow the call that comes to many Suffragists, to suspend judgment,

to study, to think, even, if so their bent is, to pray. A certain Countess of Huntingdon in the 18th century founded a new sect in the plenitude of her self-confidence. Mary, of the Gospel story, "kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." Which has most influenced mankind?

A WOULD-BE DUMB SUFFRAGIST.

A RESIDENCE FOR LADIES.

MADAM,—Notwithstanding the many urgent appeals which are being issued at this moment, I beg that you will allow me to put in a plea for the poor gentlewomen who have lost their employment, or other means of livelihood, through the war.

Convinced of the urgent need that exists, a Committee has been formed with the object of providing a home for these ladies. Those who can afford to do so will be asked to contribute towards their own support, but we hope to raise a fund so that applicants who are entirely without means may be admitted free. Besides affording a really comfortable home, the Committee aims at establishing, in connection with the residence, an agency for finding employment for the inmates.

A suitable house has been kindly lent by a well-known resident in South Kensington, but funds are required for its equipment and furnishing, and for its upkeep when in running order.

May I appeal to your readers for assistance? Gifts in money and in kind will be most welcome. We are particularly anxious to receive offers of monthly subscriptions. One promise of £5 a month for a year at least has been made on condition that eleven similar offers are received, but smaller sums will also be very welcome. Each subscriber of £5 a month will be asked to name a bed in the residence.

Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Gordon McArthur, 28, Linden Gardens, W. Offers of gifts in kind should also be sent to her in the first instance, so that she may arrange for their reception at the house.

ANNIE COWDRAY.

MIXED CLUBS.

MADAM,—In an article on the Women Patrols and the mixed clubs they are working, I notice an allusion to the Crystal Palace Club at 68, Westow Street, Upper Norwood. We started with a small private club two months ago, and went on to the larger one after a month. Both have been very successful, and the latter is now in full working order, thanks to the energy of our excellent organiser, Miss Harris, and to the really hard work put in by the local committee. We only need more helpers to open another such club immediately, and if your readers could see the disappointed crowds we turn away nightly, I feel sure we should have some offers of help. If anyone would care for more information or for practical experience in the working of such a club, I shall be delighted to help her to either. Our hours are 6.30 to 9 every evening, and we can take in 150.

C. E. JONES.
(Hon. Sec. Women Patrols Local Com.)

FIFTEEN SHILLINGS FOR FAMILY OF EIGHT.

MADAM,—In *The Daily Mirror*, of January 14th, an article appeared in which a certain Mrs. Moss "told *The Daily Mirror* correspondent" how she managed to keep a family of eight on 15s. a week, of which 5s. 9d. was spent on food. That it was starvation diet may be guessed, if, indeed, it is possible to obtain food at all at the prices stated. In one case the dinner was to be made up of a pennyworth of pot herbs. That such a wage as 15s. should be the keep of a family of eight is dreadful, but that one of the London dailies, in wide circulation, should publish an article which, if not in so many words, is intended to convey the fact that life on 15s. a week is not only possible, but might even be managed by others, were they more economical, seems a really active evil. A man reads it, thinks it sounds plausible enough, and his poor wife is next week docked of a very necessary portion of her housekeeping money, while the public mind is afterwards vaguely satisfied that 15s. a week for a family of eight is a reasonable living wage.

MARY ANGELL LANE.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORK FOR WOMEN.

MADAM,—I am writing you concerning the openings for women in Public Health work, particulars of which have appeared in *The British Medical Journal* and *The Times*. As a number of women may be attracted to this work by the short period of training, and the smallness of the fees required, may I call your attention to these facts:—

(1) That every woman Sanitary Inspector or Health Visitor is expected to hold a Midwife's Certificate, which can only be obtained after another three months' work.

(2) That posts offering a salary of £100 yearly are given only to women who beside the above qualifications are fully-trained nurses.

(3) That the official age limit for appointments is 35 years.

There is no more interesting work, but well paid posts are not plentiful. A woman of five or six years' service may reach a salary of £200 yearly, but it is well to realise that the work of such an officer is more than exacting. Regular hours exist on paper only, and she must be prepared to give up all her time and thought to her office if she is to attain to any position in her work.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A CORRECTION.

MADAM,—On the day of sending you my article, published in your last issue, I posted you a note containing some corrections of it. The note must have gone astray for the article appears without them. May I therefore make those corrections now?

The Home Office return of the status as to marriage of women employed in textile factories was published not in 1907 but in 1909, and the similar return in respect of women in non-textile factories in 1910. That dealing with women in workshops described in the article, as it stands, as remaining unprinted in the archives of the Home Office has been printed since the time when I made enquiries about it in 1911. It was printed later in that year.

Of course none of these alterations affects in the smallest degree the substance of the article, but facts are facts and it disturbs me to see an incorrect version of them appearing over my name.—Yours, &c.,

CLEMENTINA BLACK.

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FLORENCE CANNING MEMORIAL.
A Fund has been started to endow a cot in the WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, HARROW ROAD, W. All those wishing to contribute should send subscriptions, large or small, before the end of March, to Hon. Treas., Mrs. Monck-Mason, 93, Oakley St., Chelsea, S.W.

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LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS *should be addressed to the Editor,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.*

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS *to be addressed to The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* ADVERTISEMENTS *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

NOTICE.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

On Setting a Good Example.

A very large number of meetings are being held all over the country for women and girls. At these meetings much good advice is freely proffered, and good advice comes well in such a needy time. Good advice is what women and girls are thirsting for. Not for them the shout from every hoarding—"Your King and Country Need You!" Not for them the thrilling assurance—"Our Cheery Lads at the Front need You!" Not at them does Lord Kitchener look fiercely from the front of taxicabs, and, pointing a dramatic finger, cry—"Your country needs YOU!" Their patriotism must find another vent, and if people will only forbear to say "You are superfluous," they must be thankful.

Meetings, therefore, at which assurance is given that their country does need the women and girls, are welcome, and more welcome still when the assurance is followed by practical advice as to how, and when, and where, that need may be met. We have heard of Girl Guides who found their honourable and honoured place in the ranks, by doing domestic chores for Belgian refugees. Not so exciting as the trenches? Well, perhaps not, but "we do it for *our country*" was the boast that showed they knew how to serve in the right place and the right way.

But there is one piece of advice freely pressed upon women which we, in a becoming spirit of humility, wish to deprecate. Do not let us urge each other to set a good example. Setting a good example is a disease fatal to good work and appallingly infectious. What we are pleased to call "the upper classes" have for years been ravaged by it. If the entire female sex were to fall a victim we tremble for the horrible results. People whose object in life is to set a good example have no real reason for being alive at all. They are as unprofitable as the celebrated community whose inhabitants lived by taking in each other's washing. In order to live one must have one's job. Setting a good example is not a job. It is a disease.

A brilliant account of the work of mine-sweepers was given in a recent issue of *The Daily Chronicle*. Dwelling on its incredible hardships and dangers, the writer said: "These men cannot explain why they are doing this. They do not suggest that it is their 'duty.' They are very shy of using such a word. One man did, but it was in desperation, because his wife wanted him to come home; but he has been very uneasy about it ever since. He fears he has been high-falutin'." The same fear comes over every audience of women and girls anxiously confronting a speaker who shall tell them once for all how and where their country needs them. Young, earnest, patriotic, burning to do something—what are we to tell them? At least when we are gravelled for lack of matter, let us admit it and sit down. Do not let us passionately urge them to have a good influence on other people, merely because we cannot think of anything else to say. There are women who can tell them more sense than that—women who do not make them feel "like a dead fish," as one attender at a "meeting for girls" wrathfully complained the other day. But the temptation is a real one. It makes such a noble peroration to a speech! Let us beware of it, for the disease is already decimating our ranks, and inoculation is no use at all.

The Swiss Militia System.

Problems of War and Peace are discussed in THE COMMON CAUSE *in a series of articles by well-known writers. Contributors are left free to express their own opinions, as we believe it to be in the public interest that such questions should be freely discussed. The articles are all signed and must not be assumed to represent the official views of the N.U.W.S.S.*

The patriotic character of the Swiss nation is known to all of us. Few readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will not have been thrilled by Schiller's graphic description of the meeting of the representatives of Schwyz, Uri, and Unterwalden, near Tell's Kapelle in 1291. The story of William Tell, Gessler, and the apple familiar to us all may be apocryphal; but there is no doubt about the splendid victory of about 1,500 brave Swiss over nearly 20,000 Austrians under Leopold at Morgarten in 1315.

Originally a Gaulish people, the stubborn Swiss were conquered by Julius Cæsar. They then became subject to Burgundians and Germans. After Morgarten, the Austrians who had ruled over them agreed to their independence. This was formally acknowledged by Maximilian I. in 1499. Swiss soldiers had before this entered the service of Louis XI. of France, and had acquired some renown in Europe, for they were a hard fighting race. The various Cantons or small States of which Switzerland was made up were gradually federated together into a Republic. In 1648 Germany recognised, by the Treaty of Westphalia, their complete independence. In 1792, when the French Revolution broke out, the heroic deaths to a man of the Swiss Guards at the Tuilleries in defence of the French King and Queen won the admiration of the world. But the fierce French Republican armies soon overran Switzerland, conquered its gallant Militia, and the country was forced into an alliance with the French, to pay a large indemnity, and to find an annual contingent of 15,000 fighting men in 1798-99. They fought for Napoleon splendidly through all his wars up to and including 1814, and Swiss contingents served under British officers as late as the Crimean War in 1855. The integrity of Switzerland was guaranteed by the Great Powers by the Treaty of Paris in 1815, and a new constitution of the Swiss Republic was granted on November 26th, in that year.

Since the uprisings in Europe in 1848, the Federal Constitution forbade furnishing foreign Governments with contingents. The principle on which the Swiss Army is founded is that of thoroughness in home defence. The terrible experiences of their beloved country during the inroads of the French revolutionary armies made the reconstruction of their military system a necessity, but the Swiss had really adopted universal militia service for home defence as far back as 1307. They quarrelled freely with each other, but united to preserve their independence. These freeborn mountain men thus retained their spirit as formidable soldiers; yet they were true Militia, which means that the man is a citizen first and a soldier next. Every young man without class distinction must serve in the Federal Militia Force, unless pronounced *physically* unfit. He is liable to this from his twentieth to his thirty-third year. He first enters the Auszug or *élite*, in which he trains for seven years. Then he enters the Landwehr, for which he is liable from his thirty-third to fortieth year. After this, up to his forty-eighth year, he is liable for service with the Landsturm only. As a recruit, he trains for sixty-five days preliminary training. As an *élite* Militiaman, he trains for seventy-seven days; as a Landwehr (1st Reserve) man he trains for eleven days; in the Landsturm a certain number (about one-fifth) are armed, and turn out for inspection of arms, &c., once a year. Almost all of these, however, belong to rifle clubs, practice with the rifle being a national pastime much encouraged and subsidised by the Government. The Defence Force thus produced numbers about 260,000 officers and men (without counting the Landsturm) in normal times. This has now been increased owing to the war in Europe. It is organised in four Army Corps, each two divisions each, two regiments each of three battalions, four cavalry brigades, twelve artillery regiments, comprising seventy-two field batteries, with complete detachments of field engineers, bridging, telegraph, &c. The Landwehr is organised in brigades of infantry, regiments of cavalry, with artillery, &c. The forts in the St. Gothard and St. Moritz are well armed, and are well garrisoned on mobilisation. They have mountain batteries also. The field artillery is now very well armed with a new quick-firing field gun. There are a large number of machine guns, chiefly maxims, organised in companies of eight machine gun detachments in each. There are cyclist companies and a certain number of aeroplanes, good ambulance, &c. The cavalry is especially good. It is kept up on a very efficient yeomanry system. They look rough, but I was much struck by the way in which the men rode and managed their horses, and moved rapidly and effectually. They all carry rifles. The field artillery and engineers are Federal troops, under special instructions.

The Swiss Army is a thoroughly democratic one. All have the same obligations. All officers are obliged to go through the ranks, and to show themselves superior to their men in education and in military efficiency before promotion, the tests for which are passed in military courses, and are severe. I was much struck in conversation with them by their intelligent interest in and zeal for their profession, and by their knowledge of military history and of foreign armies. If any young men are prevented by physical reasons from serving personally, they pay a defence tax, varying from 5s. to £120 (if very rich). But certain individuals who are already employed in Government service and are indispensable for the carrying on of the State business, are exempt from service. If the defence tax is not paid, the defaulter is deprived of all civic rights.

The Referendum obtains in Switzerland, and no drastic reform in the laws for the Defence Force are made until ratified by this. The last re-organisation was carried out at the end of 1907, when the proposals to increase the length of the training and other reforms were carried by 65,000 votes. The Federal Council calculates and lays down the necessary annual contingent of officers and men to be furnished by each Canton. Recruiting* arrangements are carried out by the recruiting staff of each division. Each recruit on passing fit goes to a recruits school. Other matters are managed by the local cantonment authorities in accordance with the orders of the Federal Minister of War, a military committee being formed in each Canton. This committee keeps the list of all men liable to service, their ages, addresses, &c. Each man, once enrolled, keeps his uniform and arms at home, so in eight hours a local brigade can be mobilised. These can be called out in case of riot, &c. Mobilisation is simple and effective. The élite is filled up to war strength from the Landwehr, and the vacant places in the latter are filled up from the Landsturm. The efficiency of the system was shown when the whole Swiss Army was mobilised in 1871, and interned without any difficulty the French Army under General Bourbake, which, in its retreat, violated the French frontier and surrendered. I am not able to give any particulars as to the mobilisation of the Force last year.

The space at my disposal being limited, I can only just touch on the question of cadets in Switzerland in school, and after which is of great importance. In Switzerland education is compulsory up to twelve. Those going into secondary schools have to pass a test when sixteen. From twelve to eighteen, boys in secondary schools and gymnasium schools get infantry drill, besides gymnastics, and practice with a short rifle and ammunition supplied by the Government, firing thirty rounds a year. The Government pays a capitation grant for each cadet who joins a cadet corps. The instruction is carried out by schoolmasters or officers who volunteer to do this. Youths between sixteen and twenty can pass the preparatory Military training also. These courses are much encouraged by the Government, which draws up synopses of the courses, supplies arms, ammunition, and equipment, and pays various expenses. The Volunteer Rifle Clubs or Schützen-Vereine of Switzerland are well known. Rifle practice is a national pastime, and they shoot on Sunday afternoons and on holidays. Considerable local prizes are given at all centres. There are various "Tactical Societies" in certain centres, where also administrative questions are debated. All these add to the strong determination of the Swiss to keep themselves sufficiently abreast of all military matters of the day to be able to maintain their independence. The Swiss military magazines are always well up-to-date in progress in military matters. Yet no one can accuse the country of Militarism. Lord Roberts said he regarded the Swiss Militia System as not only necesary for the defence of the country, but the best system for promoting its commercial, industrial, and educational prosperity. Space precludes my explaining the system of mobilisation. But the whole army can be effectually mobilised within three or four days. I should have mentioned that full provision is now made if required for the families of any militiamen called out on mobilisation.

EDWD. GUNTER, Lieut.-Colonel.

(Author of "Outlines of Modern Tactics," &c.)

Though I am fairly well acquainted with Switzerland and its Militia, I acknowledge my indebtedness for many details herein to Col. C. Delme Redcliffe, C.M.G., M.V.O., former Military Attaché.

*A large number of men are required for the Auxiliary Services: Transport, and Supply, Medical, Telegraph, Postal, &c., on mobilisation, and care is taken to take men already engaged in similar trades for these.

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SERBIAN UNIT.

There has been no time as yet for the longed-for details to reach us about the work at Kraguievatz, where our unit of thirty had a hospital of 250 wounded assigned to it immediately on arrival. But the following information about Kraguievatz, received from a distinguished Serbian lady in Britain, will be welcomed by all interested in the woman's movement, in the uprising of small nations and in the details of the present war :—

"There is little to say about Kraguievatz beyond that it has the distinction of being Serbia's first capital when the little State struggled into a semi-free existence one hundred years ago, still as a vassal of Turkey, but a vassal that promised dangerous development. Prince Milosh Obrenovitch with his wife, the capable and energetic Princess Liubitsa, had their modest residence in Kraguievatz before expanding prospects of complete freedom drew them to settle in Belgrade. The oldest woman's association, a very flourishing one that concerns itself in normal times chiefly with educative and religious work, is styled the Princess Liubitsa's Association, 'Knegina Liubitsina Drushtva.' It kept the Christian Faith alive in Macedonia, while Macedonia was subject to Turkey. Princess Liubitsa baked the bread and wove the garments, linen and fustian, for her household, as did all Serbian women of those days. When her gallant, martial husband after years of desperate fighting, seemed to waver for a moment, and contemplated an onerous peace with the Turks, she led a group of women to the Council-place, and ordering them to remove their aprons, offered these to the tired combatants, saying :—'You have done enough. Now tie on these and stay at home to bake the bread. We will fight instead of you for the present, rather than resign the rights already won.' The men, stung to action, went forward that night and routed the enemy so that they were able to make their own terms.

"My daughter was desirous, I think, of getting the Scottish Unit to Kraguievatz rather than Uskub, first because of the superior sanitary arrangements (we only captured Uskub two years ago and had little time to do anything with it), and second, because it is so much nearer headquarters."

ABBAYE DE ROYAUMONT.

We hope to publish photographs and full particulars next week of the Hospital at the Abbaye de Royaumont, which became a military hospital from January 11th. It is expected that there will soon be much work for its three motor ambulances in conveying the wounded thither from Creil (one of the chief French distributing stations for the wounded), and for the staff in tending them.

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Per Miss M. L. Atkinson, Hon. Sec. Camberley & District Branch N.U.W.S.S., further contributions to "Surrey Suffrage" Bed— Camberley W.S.S. £3 3s., Dorking W.S.S. £3 Godalming W.S.S. £3, Weybridge W.S.S. £3, Oxted and Limpsfield WS.S. £2 2s. Woking W.S.S. £2	16	5	0
Mrs. J. Angus Gillan	2	2	0
F. J. Hayes, Esq., second donation of £50	50	0	0
Mrs. E. F. Stevenson	1	0	0
Further donation from Domestic Staff of St. Mary's School, Melrose, per Mrs. M. S. Hamilton		10	0
Per Mrs. Cursiter, Hon. Treas. Orcadian W.S.S. and friends, second contribution	2	16	0
R. Kennedy Mitchell, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Miss E. M. Payne	5	0	0
Miss E. Leresches		2	6
Miss A. Hawkinson		5	0
Per Miss A. M. Wallace, from the Church League for Women's Suffrage, Liverpool Branch	25	0	0
Per Mrs. Dewar, Hon. Treas., from the Perth W.S.S., second contribution of £25	25	0	0
Mrs. D. M. Ott	3	3	0
Miss Alma Dunbar	1	0	0
Miss Kemp, per Miss S. E. S. Mair, to equip one Bed in Hospital	10	0	0
Mrs. and the Misses Munro Kerr	5	0	0
Miss M. E. Hall, per Miss M. E. Hyde, Hon. Sec. Hull Branch N.U.W.S.S.		5	0
Miss M. A. Harman Watson £2, Miss Currie £1, Miss Gordon 2s., Per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas., Glasgow W.S.S., further donations	3	2	0
	£7,817	2	10

Error in last week.—For J. Hunter, Esq., read R. G. Hunter, Esq.

Also the £50 from Miss Stewart, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh, in last week's issue is really contributed by subscribers to "Breadalbane" Bed, for which see list on page 669.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS, NAMED, FOR HOSPITALS.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
The "Edinburgh National Society's" Bed	Edinburgh W.S.S. and Friends.
Third Paisley Bed ("Paisley North District" Bed) *for Serbia* ...	Paisley W.S.S. and Friends.
Fourth Paisley Bed	Paisley W.S.S. and Friends.
Scottish Teachers' Bed—Serbia ...	Scottish Teachers' Fund for War Relief (Educational Institute of Scotland).

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
The "Crieff Children's" Bed	Per Sale of Work by Crieff Children and Friends
" "Breadalbane" Bed	Per Miss Stewart and Friends, Edinburgh.
" "Surrey Suffrage" Bed	Guildford, Camberley, Dorking, Godalming, Weybridge, Oxted, Limpsfield, and Woking W.S.S.
"Glenesk" Bed	Mrs Tod, Glenesk

Edinburgh Breadalbane Bed.—List of Subscribers.

£50, collected by Miss Stewart, 20, Craigmillar Park Edinburgh—Donald Stewart, Esq., £5, Donald Fisher, Esq., £5, Peter Macphail, Esq., £5, A. D. Crerar, Esq., 10s., Duncan Stewart, Esq., £5, John McNab, Esq., £1, A Friend, 5s., P. C. £1 1s., J. Stewart Mac Ewan, Esq., £2 2s., P. Sutherland, Esq., 5s., Robert Milne, Esq., 5s., J. L. M. C., 5s., M. A. McLennan, £1, Dr. A. McEwan, £2 2s., M. Macandrew, Esq., 10s., Mr. J. Millar, £1 1s., J. B. Bennet, Esq., £2, W. Allan, Esq., £1 1s., Mr. W. Allan, £1 1s., James Hastie, Esq., £1 1s., John MacNaughton, Esq., £1 1s., T. J., 5s., Mrs. Duncan, 10s., J. J. Robertson, Esq., £2 2s., Alexander Leith, Esq., £1, J. Stewart Crerar, Esq., £1 1s., W. Moir Pryce, Esq., 10s., J. A. Stewart, Esq., 10s., Colin Stewart, Esq., 10s. 6d., M. J. R. Stewart, 5s., Martin McCall, Esq., 5s., George Morrison, Esq., £2 2s., John Stewart, Esq., £1 5s., H. A. Stewart, Esq., 5s., James Kay, Esq., 15s., J. D. Graham Stewart, Esq., £1 1s., W. D. Stewart, Esq., £1, Miscellaneous, 3s. 6d.

A WOMAN DOCTOR AT CALAIS.

Dr. Alice Hutchison writes from the hospital at Calais, where she is working under Dr. le Page, that three-fourths of their patients are now convalescent, and she hopes that arrangements may shortly be made to exchange them for serious cases, selected from the Belgian Hospitals in Calais, where the nursing is done by untrained orderlies :—

"How different it is walking through our wards now from what it was even two weeks ago. *Then* the wards were so silent that it was like a house of the dead. The only interludes to the heavy silence were the noisy declarations of delirious patients. Lay visitors invariably said 'How depressing it must be to work here.'

"*Now* it seems as if a magician's wand had touched the place, and all is noise and chatter and brightness.

"The epidemic is a severe one, with many grave complications. One never has a dull moment. The most interesting cases are of course the most serious ones, especially those who go through a stage of delirium. There is one case in Ward 1, a charming young fellow of thirty, who, one might say went down into the Valley of the Shadow and wandered out again. Even now I am never quite free from anxiety and his poor brain will take some time to recover its normal equilibrium. Sometimes I find him sobbing in a vain hunt for lost medals, any number ranging from one to twelve; another day he was greatly distressed over the loss of a cheque for 10,000 francs! 'A cheque as long as *this*, Mademoiselle,' he assured me, indicating about a foot and a half long! Fortunately I can always reassure him about these terrible losses, whereupon he settles into his pillow, murmering 'Oui, Oui,' just like a contented child. Even when he is at the height of his delirium, raving about the trench life, and making repeated efforts to get out of bed and be at the Germans, the niceness of him shewed up through a very interesting sub-conscious psychological touch—when I spoke quietly to him and induced him to lie down, and abandon any thought of an immediate attack on his foes, he replied it was true, with an incoherent muddle of a sentence, but he tacked on a very politely uttered 'Madame.'

"We have now got our own motor ambulance, and the addition of a Scotch driver and orderly to our establishment is very welcome."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RELIEF COMMITTEE.

The International Women's Relief Committee is beginning to take up the work of tracing those who have lost their friends because of the war. The number of inquiries received from committees doing similar work in other countries has been steadily increasing lately. No other society in this country is doing this special work which is so essentially international, and the committee has arranged with several societies working among foreigners in this country to have cases of this kind sent on to it.

Much of the work will naturally take the form of giving information as to the existing private or special agencies in this country or abroad where registers of special classes are kept and to which direct application may be made. For example, the register of all Belgians in this country is kept by the Registrar-General at Somerset House; the register of all prisoners of war, civil or military, in the United Kingdom, her Dominions and Colonies, is kept by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, 49, Wellington Street, London, W.C., &c., &c. Inquiries should be addressed to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, 7, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR CLOTHES FOR BELGIANS IN HOLLAND.

Since much of the Woman Suffrage correspondence, which was interrupted at the outbreak of the war, is again being received at the office, it has been found impossible any longer to deal at Adam Street with the clothes for Belgian refugees in Holland. Mr. Milner, of the Friends' War Victims Relief Committee, has kindly agreed to receive and dispatch clothes for Belgian refugees in Holland at the commodious warehouse where they already collect and dispatch clothes to Belgian refugees in Holland and also to war victims in France. Parcels should be addressed to him at 22, New Street Square (entrance Middle New Street), London, E.C.

The need is still very great, especially for warm underclothing.

"THE LABOUR WOMAN."

The "Message from Germany" sent by German Socialists to English ones, given in our issue of January 8th, should have been quoted as from "The Labour Woman."

DERRY & TOMS
KENSINGTON HIGH STREET LONDON W

WINTER SALE

Fur Cuirasse reduced to 7/6

From this day, in pursuance of our general policy at Sale time, we shall reduce the price of the New Fur Cuirasse from 10/- to **7/6** while the remaining stock lasts.

THE NEW FUR CUIRASSE is a single piece Garment (worn under the Tunic) with shaped opening in centre, it is drawn over the head and fastens under the arms. **The shoulders, chest, stomach, and whole of the back** are covered, and all the vital abdominal organs protected from chill by the warm fur, which is **impervious to wind.**

In the cold and water-saturated trenches the chief consideration is sound bodily health, and it is generally acknowledged that there are many more casualties from chills than gunfire.

REVERSIBLE CURIASSE Worn with Fur side out

REVERSIBLE CURIASSE Worn with Cloth side out

The Fur Cuirasse is made of the dense, close, **Natural Fur** of the **Australian Rock Rabbit; Brown Natural Kid Skins,** or Natural **Marmot Skins.** A well-tailored garment, fur one side, lined stout cloth. Reversible, as shown in Illustration.

7/6

We return the money if goods are not satisfactory.

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Medals, 1862.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
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MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

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Secretary:
MISS CROOKENDEN.

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Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Kingsway Hall Public Meeting.

The meeting to be held at the Kingsway Hall on February 5th promises to be of the greatest interest to Suffragists. Apart from the interest aroused by the announcement of the National Union policy and activities, by prominent National Union speakers, there is expected to be a great run upon the tickets owing to the fact that Madame Marie Verone, the brilliant French woman orator and barrister, has promised to speak at the meeting. She is coming to England on purpose to do so, and as she is one of the greatest woman orators in existence, the opportunity of hearing her is one that should not be allowed to slip. Another well-known speaker will be Mrs. F. D. Acland, who is always popular with Suffrage audiences.

Applications for tickets should be made as soon as possible to 50, Parliament Street, S.W. Reserved and numbered seats, 2s. 6d. and 1s.

Finance Department.

A gift of £30 has been received on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospital, from members of the Victoria League in Boston, as a first instalment "for the help of their compatriots in England." A second cheque also enclosed, for £7, was raised by a group of British women in Boston, independently of the former amount, to supply chloroform for the hospitals at the front. In addition, hospital clothing is offered. Miss Geraldine Talbot, by whom the donations were sent, says: "In sending these small contributions to the great work the N.U.W.S.S. is doing in the war I would like to add my best wishes for the success of all the Society's undertakings."

A most generous action which we wish to record is that of the Hockwold Society, the members of which have doubled their subscription in order to send a donation to the Serbian Field Hospital.

Report of Unemployed Section.

Miss Griesbach is glad to report a very successful week for the unemployment section. In two cases employers who have engaged clerks recommended by the National Union have asked for further applicants to be sent, as the previous clerks, who were being kept on, were so satisfactory. A London "School for Mothers" has engaged a candidate suggested by the N.U. as superintendent.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	3,451	10	5
Cambridge University Old Students W.S.S. (Second donation)		3	0
Miss Rudmore Brown		18	0
Miss Mary A. E. Milton		3	0
Mrs. Davidson (Second donation) Motor Ambulance		10	0
R. J. H.	5	0	0
Mrs. E. Gamble (Eleventh donation)		1	0
Mrs. Middleton (Second donation)	1	0	0
Norwich W.S.S.		5	0
Anonymous		5	8
Victoria League of Boston, U.S.A., per Miss Geraldine Talbot (Scottish Women's Hospital)	30	0	0
A Group of British Women in Boston, U.S.A., per Miss Geraldine Talbot. (To provide Chloroform for use in Hospitals at the Front)	7	0	0
Miss Lorna S. Benison		10	0
Miss G. E. Todd (Women Patrols)		10	0
Received at 50, Parliament Street—			
One Shilling Fund		14	0
Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund—			
R. J. H.	10	0	0
Miss Helen Symons	2	2	0
Miss Jessie M. Meade-King	2	0	0
Miss Margaret Draper	1	1	0
Miss Ethel A. Barrett		2	0
Miss R. Hovey	5	0	0
Mrs. Tubbs	5	0	0
Miss E. S. Price		10	0
Mrs. Russell Rea	2	2	0
Miss F. Auldjo	1	0	0
Miss A. Tweedie	1	0	0
Miss Janet Dodge	1	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Geldart	5	0	0
Mrs. F. S. Tabor	2	0	0
Miss Ruth H. Western, M.D.	15	0	0
Mrs. Lightbody	5	0	0
Mrs. Harold Cox	1	1	0
Miss Helen C. Wardale	2	0	0
Miss M. L. Mathieson	1	0	0
Miss Agnes B. Warburg	10	0	0
Mrs. Armstrong	10	0	0
Mrs. Ruth Homan	4	0	0
Miss Frances Matthey	1	0	0
	£3,585	8	1

TRAINING FOR WOMEN.

Women are needed for all sorts of work—some of it quite new work—at this time, and many are willing but untrained. We shall be glad to receive information about courses of lectures, classes, and so on, where training is given; and to publish in our columns information on this head of interest to our readers.

We have received from the *National Health Society* particulars of special courses of lectures for the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board; lectures for the diploma of the National Health Society; lectures in sick nursing (followed by practice); lectures on first aid to the injured.

We have also received the list of the *Personal Service Association*, which offers training to voluntary workers. Lectures and classes are given on Relief Work, Care Committees, Visiting, School Meals, Poor Law, Juvenile Labour Exchanges, and so on. All these are free, and the names of the lecturers inspire confidence in the soundness of the work. A monthly list of lectures and classes is issued by the P. S. Association, and may be had from the Secretary, 36, Tavistock Place, W.C.

A Training Centre and Hostel for educated girls wishing to be fitted for religious and social work has been opened by the Young Women's Christian Association. Information can be obtained from the Head of the Hostel, Miss Rickard, at 26, George Street, Hanover Square, London, W.

We shall be glad to advise those who want advice on this subject. There are now a considerable number of associations offering training to volunteer workers, and all that is needed is to put the worker into touch with them. We propose to do this for our readers week by week, if they will make their wants known. Letters should be addressed to our Social Service Editor, giving full particulars of age, education, and the sort of work which the applicant hopes to take up afterwards.

BRITISH DOMINION'S WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION WAR RELIEF WORK.

The British Dominion Women Suffrage Union is engaged in relief work and has received many contributions of clothing and money from the Suffrage Societies of South Africa and Canada and Women's Political Associations in Australia and New Zealand. The clothing is distributed to British and Belgian poor, and the money is divided between depôts for providing milk for infants and workrooms for women out of employment, unless another purpose is specified by the donors.

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Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Packed in N. U. colours. Price, with postage 3/8.—Manager, "C.C." 2, Robert St., Adelphi, W.C.

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GABARDINE BURBERRYS. Usual Price 3, 3½, and 4 Gns. **SALE PRICE 45/-**
BURBERRY CAPES, in Solax, part lined Slumber. Usual Price 6 Gns. **SALE PRICE 63/-**
TWEED BURBERRY GOWNS. Usual Price 8, 9, and 10 Gns. **SALE PRICE 84/- and 105/-**
CHILDREN'S BURBERRYS and URBITORS. Usual Price from 35/-. **SALE PRICE from 21/-**
For full list write for Sale Catalogue, Post Free.
BURBERRYS Haymarket LONDON

Where to Buy Carpets.

Never has there been a season when the winter sales have offered such notable bargains as at present, and particularly so at William Owen's, Westbourne Grove, where the most surprising reductions greet us in all departments, more especially perhaps in the carpet section. Here a large portion of the extensive stock was bought at the old prices, before the war, and is now being sold at—and in many cases *below*—cost price. To mention only one or two instances, we see Wilton carpets, 3 yards square, reproductions of exquisite Persian designs, marked from £2 19s. 6d., also seamless Axminster of splendid quality at the same price, and rich Aubusson in daintiest French patterns and colourings from £3 18s. 6d.; in fact, William Owen's is well worth a visit, even if it were for the carpet department alone.

The Feminist Publishers.

Will readers please note that in order to reduce expenses at this critical time, the International Suffrage Shop has removed from 11, Adam Street, Strand, to No. 5 Duke Street, Charing Cross. Visitors are cordially invited to call and inspect the new premises where, in addition to the large stock of books kept on the premises, orders may be placed for educational, scientific and general literature. Will Suffragists help us by ordering *all* books through us, and also support our new venture by bringing friends to have tea at the shop any afternoon.

Toy-making at Exeter.

The toy workrooms at 9, Palace Gate, Exeter, carried on under the Exeter Relief Committee, with the help of many members and friends of the local W.S.S., are very well known locally. The Press has described the work done there, and many Exonians, notably the members of the Relief Committee, have visited the workrooms.

They owe their inception to the great interest taken by Miss M. P. Willcocks in all industrial matters, which led to her being promptly put on one of the Exeter Relief Committees by a Town Councillor, and thereby being able to obtain a wages fund to help the many girls employed at a large collar factory in Exeter, who, in consequence of the war, were on half or less than half-pay. It was decided to employ these girls on toy-making, as thereby English trade would not be interfered with (toy-making being largely a German trade), and also a want would be supplied.

The Committee of the Exeter Suffrage Society, headed by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Fletcher, rallied round Miss Willcocks, and a special toy sub-committee was formed. The work was at first carried on in the Suffrage Office, but before long two fine workrooms were lent for the purpose by Mr. Ernest Wippell. Here every afternoon but Saturday the toy-makers pursue their trade, under the superintendence of Mrs Loosemore and Miss Baly, who have the assistance of a forewoman and a band of lady helpers, who take different days each week. Many of the toys have been put on the market for the first time, being the inventions of some of the helpers, *e.g.*, we are indebted to the Misses Niddall for the "water wog," made of loofah, and a delightful "Jolly Jumbo," the latter copied from the little picture in *Home Notes*, to Miss E. Petherick for a loofah duck, to Miss Story for some pretty little cane sets for dolls' house furniture. We have also made numbers of Teddy Bears, and many of them sensibly dressed. A strong tribute was paid to the business-like look of the workrooms by an inspector, who asked Miss M. P. Willcocks, then superintending, "how long she had been engaged in this trade," and surmised that the writer of this paper, who sat cutting out, was "a professional cutter." We have to contend with the disadvantage of having girls we have trained as toy-makers summoned back to the collar factory for a time, should an order come in, which necessitates extra hands, but we bear these trials with equanimity.

Forthcoming Meetings.

JANUARY 22.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Colonel Seton (of Mourie) on "The German Army"—Chair, Miss F. H. Simson, M.A. 4.30

JANUARY 23.

Camberley—Co-operative Hall—Annual Meeting of Society—Speaker, Mrs. Basset—"Discussion on "The Council Agenda" 3.0

JANUARY 24.

Hyde Park—Near the Reformers' Tree—Meeting 3.0

Willesden—Meeting at Willesden Hippodrome—Speakers, Mr. Mallaby Deeley, M.P., Mr. Charles Sarolea, D.Litt., Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P.—Chair, Mr. G. H. Hiscock, J.P.—The Willesden Branch of the London Society has been invited to take an official part in the demonstration 7.0

JANUARY 25.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party 3.0

Birmingham—Northfield Women's Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 3.0

JANUARY 26.

Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—French Class for Soldiers

JANUARY 27.

Bristol—Opening of Patriotic Club at Bedminster 3.30

JANUARY 28.

Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—French Class for Soldiers

Birkenhead—Women's Co-operative Guild—Speaker, Miss Wyse 8.0

Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Mr. William Jones (Burgh Insurance Committee) on "Sickness and Mortality" (Civil) 8.0

Walthamstow—Pioneer Café, Hoe street—Social Meeting for Members and "Friends" 7.30

JANUARY 29.

Bristol—Hamilton's Rooms—Annual Meeting—Business Meeting at 2.45—Chair, Mrs. Rendall Vickers—Public Meeting at 3.30—Chair, Mrs. Stanger

Guildford—The Suffrage Office, 1a, Mount Street—Miss Vaughan on "The War—and After"—Chair, Mrs. Swinburne

Purley—Lecture Hall, High Street—Annual Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Swanwick 8.0

Stevenage—Public Hall—Annual Meeting of Hitchin, Stevenage, and District W.S.S.—Speaker, Miss K. D. Courtney 3.30

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MISS MURIEL MATTERS will lecture on "Ibsen's Social Dramas," at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 8 p.m. Tickets, reserved and numbered, 2s. 6d., reserved 1s., unreserved 6d., from the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-st., Charing Cross. Note new address, where 6d. teas are provided every afternoon.

WOMEN AND WAR.

SERVICE OF INTERCESSION (arranged by the C.L.W.S.), Saturday, January 23rd, 3 p.m. in St. John's, Westminster, (Smith-sq.). Preacher, The Rev. Percy Dearmer, D.D.

SOCIAL GATHERING for members and friends, 4 to 6 p.m., Great Hall, Church House, Westminster. Chair, Rev. F. M. Green, B.D. Speakers, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, on "Some Impressions of the Fighting Area." Mrs. Veley, D.Sc., on "Red Cross Work." Tea, 4 to 4.45 p.m., 6d.

POSITIONS VACANT.

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CULTURED WOMAN of ability who finds it necessary to add to her income, can hear of refined and profitable employment. Experience not absolutely necessary. Selected candidate would be fully-trained for the work at advertiser's expense. The position calls for initiative and individuality. Liberal remuneration, and every encouragement and consideration offered to a broad-minded and ambitious lady. Present and future prospects excellent.—Write, "S. C.," COMMON CAUSE Office.

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FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (old) bought; we pay absolutely highest genuine prices—up to 5s. 6d. per tooth pinned on vulcanite; 10s. on silver; 12s. 6d. on gold; 35s. on platinum. Immediate cash. If offer not accepted, we return parcel post free. Satisfaction guaranteed.—S. Cann & Co., 69a, Market-st., Manchester. Bankers, Parrs. Mention "C. C."

IRISH LINEN AT SALE PRICES! Snow-white Irish Linen Hemstitched Sheets, 2 by 3 yards, 16s. 3d. per pair. Usually 23s. 9d. Only 20 pairs left. Catalogue Free!—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES & THE WAR.

PUBLIC MEETING,

KINGSWAY HALL

(KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.),

Friday, February 5TH, at 8 p.m.

To announce

The Position and Future Activities of the N.U.W.S.S. as determined at the Annual General Council of the Union, Meeting on February 4th and 5th.

Chairman: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Speakers: Mdme. MARIE VÉRONE,

The brilliant woman barrister and orator of France,

Mrs. F. D. ACLAND, and others.

ADMISSION FREE.

Reserved and Numbered Seats **2/6** and **1/-** Tickets to be obtained from the special office of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 50, Parliament Street, Whitehall, London, S.W. 'Phone: Victoria 6896.

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